

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-18, 20, and 22-23 were pending at the time the Office Action was issued, with claims 8, 11, 19, and 21 previously having been canceled.

Claims 1, 9, and 16, the pending independent claims, are currently amended.

Claims 7 and 10 are presently canceled.

Thus, claims 1-6, 9, 12-18, 20, and 22-23 remain pending.

Summary of Interview

Applicants and their undersigned representative thank the Examiner for agreeing to a telephonic interview to discuss the claims and the cited references. The Examiner was kind enough to review a proposed amendment and response prior to the telephonic interview. Applicant's representative is grateful to the Examiner for her time and her candor.

The Examiner and applicant's representative discussed the foregoing amendments to independent claims 1, 9, and 16. The Examiner agreed that the amendments presented would further the prosecution of the case and, at least would necessitate reconsideration of the grounds for rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action initially indicated that claims 1-9, 11-12, 14-15, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harold, Rusty Elliotte, "XML Bible" (hereinafter "Harold") in view of Ayers, "AbiWord's Potential" (hereinafter "Ayers"), Rohr, "RE: Styles Again" (hereinafter "Rohr"); and U.S. Patent No. 6,538,673 B1 to Maslov

(hereinafter "Maslov"). However, because claims 8 and 11 previously had been canceled, rendering moot the rejections to these claims, and the Office Action also rejects claims 13, 17-18, 20, and 22 over the same references, applicants will respond to the rejection as directed to all of the remaining pending claims, including claims 1-6, 9, 12-18, 20, and 22-23. Claims 7 and 10 are presently canceled, thereby mooting the rejections to these claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Independent claims 1, 9, and 16 are currently amended to clarify the distinctions between the claims and the cited references.

As described in detail below, one of the points at issue in the Office Action is its reliance on Ayers as teaching limitations that, with all due respect, Ayers does not teach. Specifically, the Office Action relies on Ayers' statement that "The most significant difference between AbiWord and nearly every other word processor available is the nature of the native file format. *An *.abi file is written in XML and thus is also in ASCII format; the files can be read by any text editor.*" (Office Action, Numbered Section 5, Last Paragraph on Page 4 through First Paragraph on Page 5, quoting Ayers, Page 2, Fourth Paragraph; emphasis added). As presented in detail below, this quotation from Ayers does not teach the limitations the Office Action asserts and, in fact, teaches away from what is recited in rejected claims. Amendments to claims 1, 9, and 16 clarify the patentable distinctions of these claims over the cited references.

Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references for at least three reasons. Claim 1 as amended is reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for representing style information in a markup language document, comprising:
internally representing an application document in a word-processing an application, wherein the internal representation is in a non-markup language format that is native to the application and the internal representation comprises

unique properties for describing styles within the document, wherein the unique properties are defined by the application;
determining one or more unique properties corresponding to a style that relates to at least one section of the application document;
mapping the determined properties of the style into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and
storing the mapped properties of the style in the markup language document separate from the internal representation, wherein the markup language document is manipulable on a system including one of a server and another system configured to understand the markup language and to substantially reproduce the style list without using the application that generated the markup language document and the style is not native to the system.

First, with all respect, Ayers not only fails to teach or suggest an application that uses an “internal representation” that “comprises unique properties for describing styles within the document, wherein the unique properties are defined by the application” as the Office Action asserts. (See Office Action, Numbered Section 4, First Paragraph on Page 4). As previously quoted, the Office Action cites Ayers for the proposition that “An *.abi file is written in XML and thus is also in ASCII format; the files can be read by any text editor.” (Office Action, Numbered Section 4, First Paragraph on Page 4 through First Paragraph on Page 4, quoting Ayers Page 2, Fourth Paragraph). However, if the file format of Ayers can be read by any text editor, surely, this is not “internal representation” that “comprises unique properties for describing styles within the document, wherein the unique properties are defined by the application” as recited by claim 1. Moreover, because Ayers teaches using a standardized, XML file format, Ayers’ file format uses standardized properties, not “the unique properties . . . defined by the application,” Ayers actually teaches away from what claim 1 recites. Because Ayers fails to teach or suggest these limitations of claim 1, the rejection of claim 1 based on Ayers should be withdrawn.

Second, the Office Action relies on Ayers internal XML format as teaching the “internal representation,” “mapping the determined properties of the style into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value,” and “storing the mapped properties of the style in the markup language document,” recited by claim 1, the Office Action ignores limitations of the claim. The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure is clear that the references cited in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) not only must teach all of the limitations of the rejected claim, but that “*All words in a claim must be considered* in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” (MPEP § 2143.03, quoting *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970); emphasis added). As the Office Action asserts, Ayers uses an internal XML format. As a result, Ayers cannot teach both an internal format and a markup language document, which are recited as separate elements in claim 1. Moreover, if Ayers stores data in an internal XML format, it would not be involved in “mapping the determined properties” of the internal format into a markup language document. To assert that Ayers teaches both an internal format and a markup language document, as well as mapping content from one to the other, ignores the expressed limitations of the claim. Ayers therefore cannot support the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claim 1.

Third, to clarify the distinctions between claim 1 and Ayers, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that “the file format that is specific to the application” includes “a non-markup language format” and that the “markup language document is separate from the internal representation.” Again, Ayers teaches using a single, markup language format file as the native format of its application. On the other hand, claim 1 recites a separate, non-markup language internal representation that Ayers does not teach. Because Ayers fails to teach a non-markup

language format, Ayers fails to teach the limitations of claim 1, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) must be withdrawn against claim 1.

Claim 11 also is patentable over the cited references for at least three reasons. Claim 11 as amended is reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner:

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for representing fields in a markup language document, comprising:
inputting an application document that has been generated by a word-processing application that uses a non-markup language file format that is specific to the application;
determining properties relating to one or more fields used within the application document, wherein the field comprises unique properties are defined by the application;
determining whether the field is one of a complex field and a simple field;
writing the properties into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value, wherein the field is designated with a simple field markup language element when the field is determined to be a simple field; and
storing the properties in the markup language document such that the fields of the application document are substantially maintained when the markup language document is parsed by an application that is different from the application used to generate the application document.

First, Ayers teaches away from using a “file format that is specific to the application.” Again, the Office Action quotes Ayers for the proposition that “An *.abi file is written in XML and thus is also in ASCII format; the files can be read by any text editor.” (See Office Action, Numbered Section 5, First Paragraph on Page 10, quoting Ayers, Page 2, Fourth Paragraph). Again, if the file format of Ayers can be read by any text editor, Ayers’ file format not only is not “a file format that is specific to the application” as recited by claim 11, but Ayers teaches away from using a file format specific to the application. The rejection based on Ayers thus should be withdrawn against claim 11.

Second, the Office Action relies on Ayers internal XML format as teaching the “file format specific to the application” and “the markup language document,” which are recited as

two separate elements in claim 11. As previously described, the MPEP requires that the references both teach all the limitations of the claims and that all of the words in the claims be considered. (See MPEP § 2143.03). The Office Action asserts that Ayers internal XML file format both the limitations of a file format specific to the application and a markup language document. Respectfully, asserting that Ayers teaches both of these separate limitations ignores the requirements of the MPEP and the words of claim 11. Ayers therefore cannot support the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claim 11.

Third, to clarify the distinctions between claim 11 and Ayers, applicants have amended claim 11 to recite “a non-markup language file format that is specific to the application” As the Office Action asserts, Ayers expressly teaches using a markup language format file as the native format of its application, and even extols the virtues of its XML format. By contrast, claim 11 plainly recites a non-markup language format different from that expressly taught by Ayers. Ayers fails to teach a non-markup language format and fails to teach the limitations of claim 11, thus rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) must be withdrawn against claim 11.

Claim 19 also is patentable over the cited references. Claim 19 as amended is reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner:

19. (Currently Amended) A system for representing fields in a markup language document, comprising:
an application that is configured to:
input an application document that has been generated by a word-processing an application that uses a non-markup language file format that is specific to the application;
determine properties relating to a field included in at least one section of the application document, wherein the field comprises unique properties are defined by the application;
determine whether the field is one of a complex field and a simple field;

map the properties into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value, wherein the field is designated with a simple field markup language element when the field is determined to be a simple field; and store the properties in the markup language document; and a validation engine configured to validate the markup language document.

In rejecting claim 19, the Office Action reincorporates its rejections of claim 11. However, as previously stated, applications respectfully submit that the Office Action was incorrect to conclude claim 11 was not patentable over Ayers.

First, again, Ayers again teaches away from using a “file format that is specific to the application” because of Ayers’ reliance on using a native, XML file format that “can be read by any text editor.” (See Office Action, Numbered Section 5, First Paragraph on Page 10, quoting Ayers, Page 2, Fourth Paragraph). Once again, if the file format of Ayers can be read by any text editor, Ayers’ file format not only is not “a file format that is specific to the application.” Moreover, Ayers teaches away from using a file format specific to the application. The rejection based on Ayers thus should be withdrawn against claim 19.

Second, as previously described, the Office Action is in error in relying on Ayers’ single, XML internal file format as teaching a “file format specific to the application” and a “markup language document.” Because Ayers uses a single file format, it cannot teach both limitations recited in claim 19. Moreover, in using a single file format, Ayers does not teach a system configured to “map the properties into at least one of a markup language element” to be stored in a markup language elements as recited in claim 19. Ayers fails to support the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 19.

Third, applicants have amended claim 19 to clarify the distinctions between claim 19 and Ayers. Claim 19 recites that the file format that is specific to the application is a “non-markup

language” file format. Because claim 19 recites the opposite of what Ayers expressly teaches, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) must be withdrawn against claim 19.

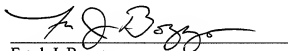
For the reasons stated, independent claims 1, 11, and 19 are patentable over the cited references. Further, because claims 3-10, 12-18, and 20-23 depend from and apply additional limitations to the respective independent claims these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. In the interest of reducing the number of issues for the Examiner to consider in this response, the foregoing discussion focuses on independent claims 1, 11, and 19, and the patentability of each remaining dependent claim is not separately addressed in detail. However, applicants’ decision not to discuss the differences between the cited art and each dependent claim should not be considered as an admission that applicants concur with the Examiner’s conclusion that these dependent claims are not patentable over the disclosure in the cited references. Similarly, applicants’ decision not to discuss differences between the prior art and every claim element, or every comment made by the Examiner, should not be considered as an admission that applicants concur with the Examiner’s interpretation and assertions regarding those claims. Indeed, applicants believe that all of the dependent claims patentably distinguish over the references cited. As noted, a specific traverse of the rejection of each dependent claim is not required, because dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which the dependent claims ultimately depend.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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